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S-AI-DEF : A BIO-INSPIRED AND PARSIMONIOUS COGNITIVE ARCHITECTURE FOR ADAPTIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DEFENSE SYSTEMS

Said Slaoui

University Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco

ABSTRACT

In mission-critical and military environments, artificial intelligence systems must operate under strict constraints of robustness, responsiveness, and resource frugality. This paper introduces S-AI-DEF, a bio-inspired and cognitively grounded architecture derived from the Sparse Artificial Intelligence (S- AI) paradigm. It combines modular specialized agents, a central MetaAgent for symbolic orchestration, and a biologically inspired hormonal signaling layer to enable context-aware, fail-tolerant, and explainable decision-making. The architecture supports graceful degradation, local autonomy, and emergent behavior, while maintaining global coherence through top-down hormonal modulation. S-AI- DEF integrates three core cognitive principles : (1) ***modular specialization*** *for task-focused efficiency, (2)* ***hormonal signaling*** *for implicit coordination and urgency modulation, and (3)* ***symbolic memory- based reasoning*** *for strategic adaptation. This design enables robust operation under adversarial, uncertain, or degraded conditions. Experimental simulations demonstrate the system's capacity to prioritize vital functions, self-regulate in partial failure scenarios, and provide interpretable outputs traceable to symbolic pathways. By merging cognitive modularity with biologically inspired regulation, S-AI-DEF offers a foundation for next-generation military AI : resilient by design, frugal by necessity, and controllable by principle.*

KEYWORDS

Sparse AI ; MetaAgent ; Military Systems ; Critical Infrastructures ; Hormonal Signaling ; Systems and specialized Agent-Based Architecture.

1. Introduction

1.1 Context and Motivation

In modern military and critical infrastructure environments, artificial intelligence (AI) plays an increasingly central role in decision-making, autonomous control, surveillance, and threat mitigation. From unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and command-and-control (C2) centers to embedded defense platforms and cybersecurity shields, intelligent systems must operate under extreme constraints—time, resources, reliability, and security. In such domains, the need for adaptive, resilient, and interpretable AI architectures becomes paramount. However, the deep learning approaches that dominate current research are often computationally intensive, opaque, and poorly suited for real-time or adversarial conditions.

Recent developments in contemporary military operations suggest an increasing reliance on advanced artificial intelligence systems for intelligence analysis, decision support, and operational planning. Large-scale AI models are reportedly being integrated into military information processing pipelines to assist analysts in interpreting vast volumes of sensor data, satellite imagery, communication intercepts, and operational reports. Such systems can accelerate the analysis phase of the decision cycle by synthesizing heterogeneous information sources and generating situational summaries or potential courses of action. However, these approaches often rely on centralized and computationally intensive models, which may raise concerns regarding explainability, controllability, and robustness in mission- critical environments. These limitations highlight the need for alternative architectures that emphasize modularity, transparency, and adaptive resource management—principles that motivate the design of the S-AI-DEF framework proposed in this work.

1.2 Challenges in AI for Defense Systems

Unlike civilian applications, military and critical systems must function under highly dynamic, uncertain, and resource-constrained environments. These systems require :

- Modular and context-aware intelligence to activate only relevant capabilities,
- Explainability and traceability to comply with legal and strategic doctrines,
- Resilience to cyberattacks and physical failures,
- Low-latency decision-making at the tactical edge, often with limited connectivity.

Traditional end-to-end learning pipelines or stateless LLMs often fail to meet these demands, especially in hostile or offline contexts. In addition, recent AI deployments based on large centralized models may struggle to meet the operational constraints of mission-critical environments, where explainability, modular control, and graceful degradation are essential requirements.

1.3 Limitations of Classical Approaches

State-of-the-art AI architectures often rely on large-scale monolithic models that are trained end-to-end and uniformly activated across tasks. These systems consume excessive energy and bandwidth, struggle with modular adaptation and failure containment, offer limited control over their internal activation logic, and lack support for dynamic reconfiguration based on mission context or threat level. Furthermore, memory-enhanced LLMs or retrieval-augmented frameworks tend to centralize decision-making in ways that are fragile and unsuitable for distributed tactical environments.

1.4 S-AI-DEF Positioning

S-AI-DEF (Sparse Artificial Intelligence for Defense and Critical Systems) introduces a bio-inspired, parsimonious, and modular AI architecture specifically tailored for defense-grade applications. Derived from the foundational S-AI framework, S-AI-DEF extends the principles of sparse activation, symbolic decomposition, hormonal orchestration, and agent-based modularity to the world of critical systems. It incorporates a layered structure of specialized agents, guided by a central MetaAgent, and dynamically modulated by an artificial hormonal engine inspired by biological signaling pathways.

To address the unique constraints of mission-critical environments, the following section outlines the core scientific contributions of S-AI-DEF, emphasizing its architectural novelty, adaptive orchestration, and defense-oriented intelligence strategies.

2. Related Work

Recent research in *Defence Technology* has increasingly focused on intelligent mission planning, agent-based control, and adaptive decision-making in critical environments. Liu et al. [2] introduced a navigation method for guided ammunition under GNSS denial, using enhanced Kalman filtering and ballistic prediction. While effective under degraded signal conditions, their system lacks modular decomposition and does not implement context-driven orchestration.

Long et al. [3] proposed a comprehensive aerial-aquatic trajectory optimization for trans-medium vehicles. Although their approach models multi-phase transitions, it does not incorporate agent-based modularity or hormonal-like regulation.

Wang et al. [4] designed a distributed decision-making mechanism for multi-agent combat scenarios operating under communication constraints. Their architecture emphasizes robustness but does not provide centralized orchestration or symbolic activation policies. Li et al. [5] proposed a multi-level hybrid intelligence framework for swarm control, leveraging a hierarchical integration of symbolic rules and learning models. However, it does not address sparse activation or adaptive hormonal signaling.

Zhang et al. [6] explored resilient UAV swarm planning using behavior trees and decentralized execution. While dynamic and adaptable, the system does not provide symbolic control of agent activation nor cognitive separation of strategic and tactical subgoals. Finally, article [7] emphasizes the importance of secure-by-design principles in defense systems—conceptually aligned with S-AI-DEF's goal of building cognitive resilience and modular explainability from the ground up. In contrast, the S-AI-DEF architecture uniquely combines sparse activation, task decomposition, and artificial hormonal signaling to enable reflexive orchestration in critical systems. It introduces a bio-inspired multi-agent ecosystem where cognitive autonomy, adaptive priority, and contextual modulation are tightly integrated.

The *Journal of Defense Modeling and Simulation (JDMS)* has published several works that explore modular architectures and agent-based decision-making in mission-critical contexts. Løvlid et al. [8] developed a multi-layered model of command agents using context-based reasoning to adapt behavior in hierarchical military operations. While their model emphasizes dynamic reasoning, it does not feature hormonal modulation or explicit 80/20 task decomposition as introduced in S-AI-DEF.

Ayari et al. [9] investigated multi-objective mapping strategies for distributing full-mission simulators across heterogeneous multiprocessor systems. Their work highlights the complexity of allocating computational tasks efficiently, resonating with S-AI-DEF's agent-oriented task routing via the DEF-DecompositionAgent.

Zeigler et al. [10] proposed a layered modeling and simulation framework for agent-based system development using DEVS formalism. Their approach supports modularity and interoperability, concepts aligned with the agent-based architecture of S-AI-DEF, although their system lacks the contextual activation strategies and hormonal coordination present in our framework.

Finally, Ghavamzadeh and Mahadevan [11] explored hierarchical reinforcement learning in multi-agent systems with communication policies (COM-CoHRL). Their framework provides a foundation for modular coordination and communication control, but does not explicitly incorporate semantic decomposition, reflexive orchestration, or context-driven hormonal signaling as proposed in S-AI-DEF.

The *International Journal of Critical Infrastructure Protection (IJCIP)* has published several foundational works exploring interdependencies, failure propagation, and resilience strategies in complex infrastructure systems—areas closely related to the modular orchestration and adaptive control targeted by S-AI-DEF. For example, the Interdependent Critical Infrastructure Model (ICIM) proposed by [12] simulates power and water systems using an agent-based architecture, highlighting cascading effects between subsystems. While ICIM demonstrates structural modularity, it lacks context-sensitive activation and cognitive orchestration.

The study by [13] introduces a quantitative framework to evaluate synergistic failures in infrastructure networks, emphasizing how dependencies amplify systemic vulnerabilities. This resonates with S-AI-DEF's anticipation of temporal and logical interdependencies among subtasks. Similarly, [14] develops a multilayer network model to enhance urban system resilience to disasters, revealing how dynamic interactions across layers impact global stability—conceptually related to the interaction between DEF-Agents and DEF-GlandAgents.

Articles [15] and [16] address time-based dependency analysis and nationwide infrastructure monitoring, respectively. These contributions underscore the importance of both **temporal modeling** and **global orchestration**, features natively supported in S-AI-DEF through its hormonal signaling engine and reflexive MetaAgent. Finally, [17] proposes a security classification methodology for smart grids, illustrating the need for **criticality scoring**—a central mechanism of S-AI-DEF's task decomposition and adaptive resource allocation. Together, these works establish a context in which S-AI-DEF can be positioned as a bio-inspired orchestration layer for critical systems : one that introduces symbolic decomposition, sparse activation, and cognitive control to address strategic adaptation under stress and uncertainty.

The *Journal of Information Warfare* has recently emphasized AI's role in shaping cyber operations and cognitive warfare. Sarjakivi [18] conducts a systematic review identifying 22 real-world use cases where AI enhances cyber offence and defence—a finding aligned with S-AI-DEF's modular and adaptive multi-agent orchestration core. Plotnek & Slay [19] define resilience frameworks for space systems, stressing layered security and contextual adaptation, echoing our reflexive hormonal modulation. Ruoslahti et al. [20] explore educational competencies for cyber-physical resilience, underlining human–AI synergy foundational to agent-based frameworks. Armistead [21] proposes a dedicated Information Warfighting Function to coordinate info-related capabilities—akin to S-AI-DEF's MetaAgent. Oesch et al. [22] assess autonomous AI agents in cyber arms races, highlighting multi-agent control issues directly addressed by our hormonal signalling for activation control. Finally, Pauwels [23] analyzes generative AI in cognitive warfare, complementing S-AI-DEF's reflexive reasoning applied to grey-zone conflicts.

Beyond academic contributions, several recent industry analyses and technical blogs have explored agent-based architectures and their implications for defense, cyber resilience, and swarm intelligence. The Galileo.ai platform has highlighted the increasing risk of coordinated adversarial attacks in multi-agent AI systems [24], advocating for proactive detection and modular isolation strategies. This aligns with S-AI-DEF's hormonal modulation mechanism, which provides an adaptive containment layer via reflexive agent regulation.

In another contribution, Galileo.ai outlined strategies to secure multi-agent systems against adversarial exploits [25], emphasizing the need for dynamic communication protocols and decentralized verification—principles mirrored in the decentralized orchestration logic of S-AI-DEF. Additionally, a Medium article [26] introduced the concept of "Agile Swarm Intelligence" as an emergent property of generative AI systems interacting adaptively, resonating with the S-AI-DEF model where agent swarms are activated based on internal hormonal signals and contextual triggers.

Finally, SmythOS [27] presented a defense-focused perspective on multi-agent architectures, demonstrating how agent granularity, autonomous decision units, and composable logic could enhance military strategies. These perspectives provide further external validation for the modular, adaptive, and context-aware architecture proposed in S-AI-DEF.

Recent developments in military technology have also explored the integration of advanced artificial intelligence systems into operational decision-support pipelines. Such systems assist analysts in processing and synthesizing large volumes of heterogeneous data originating from satellites, drones, communication intercepts, and operational reports. By accelerating information analysis and pattern detection, these AI systems contribute to faster situational awareness and improved operational planning. However, many current approaches rely on large centralized models operating as monolithic reasoning components. While effective for large-scale data processing, such architectures may face limitations in mission-critical environments where explainability, modular control, and robustness under degraded conditions are essential. These challenges reinforce the relevance of modular and distributed AI architectures such as S-AI-DEF, which combines symbolic reasoning, specialized agents, and hormonally modulated orchestration to enable adaptive and parsimonious intelligence in defense systems.

3. Theoretical Foundations of S-AI-DEF

The S-AI-DEF framework builds upon the foundational principles of Sparse Artificial Intelligence (S-AI) and adapts them to the high-stakes requirements of military and critical systems. This section presents the four theoretical pillars underlying S-AI-DEF: parsimonious activation, task decomposition, contextual orchestration via hormonal signaling, and agent-based modularity.

3.1 Principle of Parsimonious Activation

At the core of S-AI-DEF lies the principle of parsimonious activation, which posits that only a minimal subset of computational units—such as agents, rules, or memory traces—needs to be activated for any given task. Inspired by the 80/20 heuristic (Pareto principle), this sparse activation strategy leads to lower energy consumption, faster response times, reduced risk of error propagation, and improved control over agent behavior in mission-critical settings. This principle is especially vital for embedded or edge-deployed military devices, where power, bandwidth, and latency are strictly limited.

3.2 Symbolic Task Decomposition and 80/20 Reasoning

S-AI-DEF integrates a Decomposition Agent capable of transforming a global mission or request into a set of sub-tasks. These are classified into :

- Simple tasks (≈ 80%), resolved using symbolic rules, heuristics, or direct mappings ;
- Complex tasks (≈ 20%), requiring more elaborate processing, often involving contextual agents, memory retrieval, or predictive models.

This symbolic decomposition strategy improves transparency and enables real-time task management while avoiding full-pipeline invocation.

3.3 Contextual Orchestration via Hormonal Signaling

Inspired by biological endocrine systems, S-AI-DEF employs a Hormonal Engine to orchestrate the activation, inhibition, and prioritization of agents and behaviors. Artificial hormones are released in response to mission urgency, emotional memory traces, environmental stress, and internal feedback loops. These hormonal levels determine which agents are activated, the intensity of their responses, and which memory components are accessed. This mechanism enables adaptive modulation of system behavior without requiring costly retraining or reprogramming.

3.4 Agent-Based Modular Intelligence

S-AI-DEF embraces a fully modular architecture composed of:

- System agents: e.g., MetaAgent, Decomposition Agent, Hormonal Engine, Memory Agent;
- Domain-specialized agents: e.g., ThreatAssessmentAgent, LogisticsAgent, CommunicationAgent;
- Tactical support agents: e.g., RedundancyAgent, RecoveryAgent, EthicsAgent.

Each agent is autonomous, interpretable, and reusable across missions. The MetaAgent orchestrates the system by activating only the relevant agents based on symbolic rules, task complexity, and hormonal context.

4. System Agents in S-AI-DEF

The intelligence of S-AI-DEF emerges from the coordinated interaction of a set of system-level agents responsible for orchestration, reasoning, regulation, and resilience. These agents constitute the internal backbone of the architecture and enable adaptive, explainable, and resource-efficient decision-making in complex defense environments.

4.1 DEF-MetaAgent: Central Orchestrator and Cognitive Regulator

The **DEF-MetaAgent** acts as the central cognitive coordinator of S-AI-DEF. It supervises system activity by decomposing mission objectives, selecting appropriate specialized agents, and orchestrating their execution according to contextual priorities and hormonal signals.

Its main responsibilities include:

- interpreting mission context, urgency, and environmental conditions;
- activating specialized agents in a parsimonious manner according to task relevance and resource constraints;
- coordinating cross-domain activities such as navigation, logistics, cyber defense, and threat response;
- monitoring system performance and dynamically reallocating subtasks when required.

Through continuous interaction with the hormonal layer, the MetaAgent adapts the global behavior of the system by adjusting agent priorities and resource allocation. It also records execution traces and successful patterns, contributing to the strategic memory of the architecture.

4.2 DEF-DecompositionAgent: Semantic Task Decomposition

The **DEF-DecompositionAgent** transforms high-level mission objectives into structured subtasks. This process relies on semantic parsing, symbolic reasoning, and task ontologies.

Its core functions include:

- semantic parsing of mission directives using rule-based templates and contextual models;
- classification of subtasks into simple operations handled by lightweight agents and complex operations requiring strategic reasoning;
- application of a cognitive efficiency heuristic in which most tasks are handled through lightweight operations while only a minority require deep reasoning;
- detection of ambiguity or incomplete instructions, which are returned to the MetaAgent for clarification.

By structuring incoming tasks, the DecompositionAgent ensures efficient workload distribution and preserves system responsiveness.

4.3 DEF-HormonalEngine: Bio-Inspired Contextual Regulation

The **DEF-HormonalEngine** provides bio-inspired regulation through the diffusion of digital hormones that modulate agent behavior dynamically.

Instead of relying solely on explicit control rules, the system uses hormonal signals that influence agent activation thresholds, prioritization weights, and resource allocation. Hormones are synthesized in response to contextual factors such as threat detection, mission urgency, or feedback from memory.

Hormonal signals propagate through the agent ecosystem and gradually decay over time, enabling smooth behavioral adaptation without continuous central intervention. This mechanism allows S-AI-DEF to combine symbolic orchestration with decentralized adaptive regulation.

4.4 Memory Architecture in S-AI-DEF

S-AI-DEF integrates a multi-layer memory system combining short-term contextual awareness, long-term symbolic memory, and affective modulation.

Dynamic Contextual Memory

The **Dynamic Contextual Memory (DCM)** maintains short-term operational context such as recent inputs, threat indicators, and intermediate reasoning steps. Hormonal modulation determines which elements are retained or discarded, allowing the system to maintain situational awareness while preserving computational efficiency.

DEF-MemoryAgent

The **DEF-MemoryAgent** manages long-term symbolic memory. It stores mission outcomes, operational logs, and strategic knowledge as structured memory objects that can be queried or updated by the MetaAgent. These memory traces support explainability and long-term mission learning.

Memory Gland

The **Memory Gland** enriches memory traces with affective signals and emits hormonal feedback based on past experiences. These signals influence future decision thresholds and help encode strategic caution or confidence derived from prior missions.

4.5 Knowledge and Decision Support

The **DEF-KnowledgeBaseAgent** manages structured knowledge representations that support symbolic reasoning and policy enforcement.

It maintains operational ontologies, doctrinal rules, and safety constraints, and enables logical inference over observed facts. This allows the system to validate decisions against mission rules and ethical constraints, ensuring explainable and auditable reasoning.

4.6 Resilience, Safety, and Security

System robustness is ensured through dedicated monitoring agents.

The **DEF-RedundancyAgent** supervises operational continuity by activating backup agents when failures occur and enabling graceful degradation of functionality.

The **DEF-SafetyAgent** enforces safety invariants and performs runtime verification of agent outputs and environmental inputs. It can trigger emergency overrides or system stabilization procedures when anomalies are detected.

Complementing these mechanisms, the **DEF-SecurityAgent** monitors inter-agent communication and incoming data streams to detect adversarial manipulation, corrupted inputs, or structural inconsistencies within the system.

Together these agents ensure reliable operation under adversarial conditions and maintain system integrity during mission execution.

4.7 Perception, Interface, and Mission Control

S-AI-DEF integrates additional agents responsible for perception, communication with human operators, and mission-level supervision.

The **DEF-MultiSourceAgent** aggregates heterogeneous inputs from sensors, satellites, cyber systems, and field units, performing sensor fusion and reliability assessment.

The **DEF-DisplayAgent** adapts system outputs to human operators by prioritizing relevant information, formatting explanations, and regulating cognitive load.

The **DEF-MissionAgent** maintains a high-level representation of mission objectives and tracks their progression over time. It dynamically reprioritizes tasks in response to evolving conditions and ensures alignment with strategic goals.

4.8 Collective Intelligence and Distributed Adaptation

For large-scale operations involving autonomous units such as drone swarms, S-AI-DEF incorporates mechanisms for distributed coordination.

The **DEF-CollectiveIntelligenceLayer** enables agents to share contextual information, coordinate tactical actions, and dynamically redistribute tasks when units fail or communication is degraded. Through localized reasoning and hormonal synchronization, agents can substitute lost peers, elect temporary leaders, and maintain operational coherence without continuous central control.

This distributed coordination mechanism increases mission resilience and reduces the cognitive burden on the MetaAgent in complex environments.

4.9 Mathematical Model of Hormonal Diffusion in S-AI-DEF

4.9.1 Hormonal field and agent graph

We consider a defense-oriented hormonal set $\mathcal{K}_{DEF}$ with local hormone levels $h_{k,i}(t) \in [0,1]$, where $k \in \mathcal{K}_{DEF}$ indexes hormonal channels and $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ indexes agents/modules in the S-AI-DEF ecosystem. The interaction topology is modeled as a graph $G = (V, E)$ with $N = |V|$, and a (normalized) graph Laplacian $L = [L_{ij}]$.

We adopt the following canonical defense hormonal channels: - Urgencin (U): operational urgency and time-to-impact pressure. - Stressin (S): threat intensity and adversarial pressure. - Resilin (R): recovery, stabilization, and reconfiguration drive. - Normin (N): ROE/legal/ethical compliance pressure. - Cohesin (C): coordination, consensus, and swarm/coalition cohesion.

4.9.2 Contextual triggers and bounded emission

Let the defense observables at node i be: - $U_i(t)$: urgency indicator (deadlines, time-to-impact, escalation). - $T_i(t)$: threat indicator (ISR fusion, probability and impact of hostile action). - $Q_i(t)$: coordination stress indicator (communication degradation, disagreement, fragmentation). - $M_i(t)$: mission recovery indicator (damage, partial failure, instability, recovery need). - $V_i(t)$: compliance risk indicator (ROE violation risk, restricted zones, civilian risk).

Hormonal emissions are defined through bounded, saturating functions:

$$e_{k,i}(t) = \sigma\Big(\kappa_k\big(z_{k,i}(t) - \theta_k\big)\Big),$$

where $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1+\exp(-x)}$, $\kappa_k > 0$ is a gain, and θ_k is an activation threshold. The observable-to-hormone mapping is:

$$z_{U,i}(t) = U_i(t), \quad z_{S,i}(t) = T_i(t), \quad z_{R,i}(t) = M_i(t), \quad z_{N,i}(t) = V_i(t), \quad z_{C,i}(t) = Q_i(t).$$

4.9.3 Graph-based reaction–diffusion dynamics

Hormonal levels evolve according to a reaction–diffusion system on the agent graph:

$$\dot{h}_{k,i}(t) = e_{k,i}(t) - \lambda_k h_{k,i}(t) - \sum_{\ell \neq k} \gamma_{k\ell}\, h_{\ell,i}(t) + D_k \sum_j L_{ij}\, h_{k,j}(t) - \chi_i(t) + \xi_{k,i}(t),$$

where: - λ_k is the decay rate of hormone k. - $\gamma_{k\ell} \geq 0$ encodes cross-inhibition from hormone ℓ to hormone k, with $\gamma_{kk} = 0$. - $D_k \geq 0$ is the diffusion coefficient of hormone k. - L is the (normalized) Laplacian of the agent communication graph. - $\chi_i(t) \geq 0$ is a local constraint term capturing operational limitations. - $\xi_{k,i}(t)$ is bounded noise modeling uncertainty, sensing errors, and latency.

A typical diffusion ordering for defense is:

$$D_S \gtrsim D_U > D_C \gtrsim D_N \gtrsim D_R,$$

so that threat and urgency propagate faster than recovery and compliance stabilization.

4.9.4 Cross-inhibition matrix Γ for defense

The inhibition matrix $\Gamma = [\gamma_{k\ell}]$ satisfies $\gamma_{k\ell} \geq 0$ and $\gamma_{kk} = 0$. A canonical defense inhibition pattern is: - Normin inhibits Urgencin and Stressin (ROE/compliance gating). - Resilin inhibits Urgencin and Stressin (stabilization suppresses escalation). - Stressin inhibits Resilin (active threat delays recovery). - Cohesin inhibits Urgencin (coordination prevents impulsive escalation under fragmentation). - Stressin inhibits Cohesin (high threat reduces negotiation bandwidth).

Using the order $[U, S, R, N, C]$, one admissible template is:

$$\Gamma = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \gamma_{UR} & \gamma_{UN} & \gamma_{UC} \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma_{SR} & \gamma_{SN} & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{RS} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_{CS} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

with $\gamma_{UR}, \gamma_{UN}, \gamma_{UC}, \gamma_{SR}, \gamma_{SN}, \gamma_{RS}, \gamma_{CS} \geq 0$ chosen to reflect doctrine and safety policy.

4.9.5 Local constraint term for defense environments

Local constraints aggregate computational, communication, and adversarial impairments:

$$\chi_i(t) = \omega_{cpu}\chi_i^{cpu}(t) + \omega_{bw}\chi_i^{bw}(t) + \omega_{jam}\chi_i^{jam}(t) + \omega_{loss}\chi_i^{loss}(t),$$

where typical components include:

$$\chi_i^{cpu}(t) = \ell_i^{cpu}(t), \quad \chi_i^{bw}(t) = \ell_i^{bw}(t), \quad \chi_i^{jam}(t) = \sigma\big(\kappa_J(J_i(t) - J_{max})\big), \quad \chi_i^{loss}(t) = p_i^{loss}(t),$$

with $\ell_i^{cpu}(t) \in [0,1]$ CPU load, $\ell_i^{bw}(t) \in [0,1]$ bandwidth saturation, $J_i(t)$ a jamming indicator, J_{max} a tolerance threshold, and $p_i^{loss}(t) \in [0,1]$ a packet-loss indicator.

4.9.6 Discretization with projection

For simulation and implementation, we use an Euler scheme with projection onto [0,1]:

$$h_{k,i}(t+1) = \Pi_{[0,1]}\big(h_{k,i}(t) + \Delta t\, \dot{h}_{k,i}(t)\big).$$

Under stochastic uncertainty, an Euler–Maruyama discretization can be used:

$$h_{k,i}(t+1) = \Pi_{[0,1]}\big(h_{k,i}(t) + \Delta t\, \dot{h}_{k,i}(t) + \sigma_k \sqrt{\Delta t}\, \varepsilon_{k,i}(t)\big),$$

where $\varepsilon_{k,i}(t)$ is zero-mean noise and σ_k controls uncertainty intensity.

4.9.7 MetaAgent-level aggregated hormones

The MetaAgent can read global hormonal aggregates:

$$\bar{h}_k(t) = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} h_{k,i}\,(t),$$

to modulate orchestration parameters such as activation thresholds, prioritization weights, or global resource budgets.

4.9.8 Observable-to-hormone-to-effect mapping (defense)

The following mapping summarizes how defense observables drive hormonal regulation and downstream behavior: - $U_i(t)$ → Urgencin: lowers activation thresholds for time-critical agents and accelerates decision cycles. - $T_i(t)$ → Stressin: prioritizes threat assessment, defensive posture, and anomaly verification; suppresses non-essential tasks. - $M_i(t)$ → Resilin: promotes reconfiguration, redundancy, and graceful degradation strategies. - $V_i(t)$ → Normin: enforces ROE/legal gating, increases verification depth, and suppresses escalation under compliance risk. - $Q_i(t)$ → Cohesin: promotes consensus protocols, coordination repair, and stabilizes distributed tactical adjustments.

5. Domain-Specific Agents in S-AI-DEF

S-AI-DEF integrates a wide array of **DEF-specialized agents** designed to process domain-level tasks under operational constraints. Unlike system agents that manage cognition and orchestration, domain-specific agents address concrete functional needs such as reconnaissance, threat assessment, communications, and logistics. Each DEF-agent is modular, context-aware, and activated only when required.

5.1 DEF-ReconAgent : Situational Awareness and Sensing

The DEF-ReconAgent processes raw sensory or image data from satellites, drones, or field units to generate situational maps, detect anomalies, and extract targets of interest. It combines image segmentation and classification, object tracking with geolocation, and terrain interpretation enriched with symbolic overlays. Primarily used for early warning and battlefield mapping, this agent can also trigger hormonal alerts when clusters of anomalies or strategic assets are detected.

5.2 DEF-ThreatAssessmentAgent : Strategic Risk Evaluation

This agent evaluates threats based on real-time data, memory traces, and doctrinal rules. Its functions include cross-referencing targets with mission priorities, estimating the probability and impact of hostile actions, and generating actionable recommendations such as evading, neutralizing, or observing. To perform these tasks, it relies on a combination of symbolic logic, risk scoring, and probabilistic inference.

5.3 DEF-StrategyAgent : High-Level Tactical Reasoning

This agent simulates the outcomes of multiple tactical options by incorporating mission constraints, feedback from other agents (such as threat assessments, logistics, and communications), and symbolic scenario generation and evaluation. It provides strategic advice to the DEF-MetaAgent and can leverage stored battle patterns retrieved from the DEF-MemoryAgent. The reinforcement or pruning of strategies is hormonally modulated to ensure adaptive and context-aware decision-making.

5.4 DEF-CyberDefenseAgent : Digital Threat Management

The DEF-CyberDefenseAgent is responsible for safeguarding the digital integrity of the S-AI-DEF system. It continuously monitors the ecosystem for signs of intrusion, abnormal behaviors, or communication interference. Its primary role is to detect and neutralize cyber threats such as malware injection, unauthorized access attempts, or signal jamming, before they compromise operational continuity. Upon detection of a potential breach, the agent can autonomously trigger protective measures—ranging from local quarantines and alert broadcasts to real-time rerouting of digital flows—often in coordination with the DEF-SecurityAgent. Its response is not static : under hormonal stress conditions, such as the presence of system-wide alert signals or accumulated failure markers, the agent dynamically adjusts its behavior. This includes increasing the frequency of scans, deepening the scope of anomaly detection, or activating dormant defense routines. The CyberDefenseAgent also leverages memory traces—analyzing past intrusion patterns in collaboration with the DEF-MemoryAgent—and refines its strategies with input from the MetaAgent. Together, these components allow the system to learn from experience, adapt to evolving threat landscapes, and enforce a resilient digital perimeter around all critical processes.

5.5 DEF-CommsAgent : Secure and Contextual Communication

The DEF-CommunicationAgent is in charge of managing all mission-critical communication flows within the S-AI-DEF ecosystem. Its primary role is to ensure that information circulates securely, coherently, and without ambiguity across all operational tiers. To achieve this, the agent filters and encrypts messages, prioritizes transmissions based on mission urgency or agent hierarchy, and continuously monitors for delays, semantic contradictions, or loss of synchronization between components. In environments where clarity and speed are essential, this agent acts as both a gatekeeper and a translator—supporting multilingual symbolic interpretation to facilitate interoperability across allied systems or human teams. When standard communication routes are compromised, it can autonomously activate fallback channels or initiate degraded communication modes to preserve the informational backbone of the mission. By maintaining the integrity and clarity of exchanges under pressure, the CommunicationAgent helps sustain global situational awareness, supports informed decision-making, and prevents misunderstandings that could lead to tactical failures or escalation.

5.6 DEF-LogisticsAgent : Resource Management and Allocation

This agent oversees the status of critical supplies such as fuel, munitions, medical packs, and batteries. It plans resupply missions and routing under operational constraints, predicts resource depletion based on the tempo of operations, and issues alerts or alternative plans in case of shortage. To ensure compliance with established protocols and logistics rules, it interacts with the DEF-KnowledgeBaseAgent.

5.7 DEF-NavigationAgent : Trajectory Planning and Mobility

This agent is responsible for generating and updating optimal paths in dynamic environments, whether for ground units, aerial drones, or autonomous vehicles. Its main capabilities include calculating safe and efficient trajectories under threat and terrain constraints, avoiding zones identified as hazardous by the ThreatAssessmentAgent or EnvironmentAgent, and reacting in real time to unexpected blockages or enemy movement. It integrates feedback from the DEF-LogisticsAgent regarding fuel or supply constraints and from the DEF-EnvironmentAgent concerning weather or terrain changes. The DEF-NavigationAgent can also be hormonally modulated, with increased urgency when delays threaten mission timing.

5.8 DEF-EnvironmentAgent : Weather and Terrain Adaptation

This agent integrates weather data, terrain features, and physical constraints into mission planning. It modifies the activation thresholds of other agents, suggests alternative paths or strategies, and provides localized micro-adaptations. Additionally, it contributes to the simulation of hostile or unpredictable environmental conditions to enhance mission robustness.

5.9 DEF-AdversaryModelingAgent : Enemy Simulation and Behavioral Forecasting

This agent constructs and maintains predictive models of adversary behavior by leveraging symbolic patterns, historical conflict data, and real-time threat inputs. It simulates likely enemy moves based on doctrinal knowledge and contextual cues, identifies potential deception tactics and strategic shifts, and generates counterfactual scenarios to support strategic testing. By integrating hormonal urgency signals and memory traces from past confrontations, it enables the DEF-StrategyAgent and the MetaAgent to anticipate and prepare appropriate counteractions. Its modular foresight significantly enhances resilience in asymmetric or deceptive threat environments.

5.10 DEF-CyberAgent : Intrusion Detection and Digital Threat Response

This agent monitors the cyber layer of operational environments, detecting intrusions, malware behaviors, and data flow anomalies in real time across networked systems and embedded components. Its functions include behavioral profiling of data traffic and command injections, detection of lateral movements and zero-day attack patterns, and immediate orchestration of quarantine and countermeasures. It collaborates with the DEF-SecurityAgent and the DEF-KnowledgeBaseAgent to cross-reference detected anomalies against known attack vectors and doctrinal responses. Additionally, the DEF-CyberAgent can emit stress or alert hormones to preemptively activate defensive agents when needed.

5.11 DEF-RulesOfEngagementAgent : ROE Compliance and Ethical Validation

The DEF-RulesOfEngagementAgent is tasked with ensuring that every operational decision and agent activation aligns with the applicable Rules of Engagement (ROE), mission-specific constraints, and established ethical standards. It functions as a real-time guardian of legality and proportionality, continuously evaluating proposed actions for compliance with military doctrine and codified principles. Before execution, each decision is filtered and cross-validated against structured knowledge bases, including rules on engagement thresholds, risk mitigation, and non-combatant protection. When inconsistencies or violations are detected, the DEF-RulesOfEngagementAgent has the authority to override activations or halt decision chains, acting as a last line of normative defense. In contexts involving human-in-the-loop or human-on-the-loop supervision, it plays a pivotal role by offering transparent justifications, symbolic explanations, and actionable vetoes to the MetaAgent or human operator. By embedding ethical oversight directly into the decision-making core of S-AI-DEF, this agent safeguards not only operational discipline, but also strategic legitimacy, accountability, and trust.

5.12 DEF-PsyOpsAgent : Cognitive Warfare and Influence Detection

The DEF-PsyOpsAgent detects psychological operations, disinformation, and influence campaigns targeting troops, systems, or civilian populations. It analyzes linguistic, visual, and symbolic cues to identify manipulation patterns, detects shifts in the emotional tone of incoming messages, and identifies coordinated narrative attacks or semantic drift. It collaborates with the DEF-CommsAgent to ensure the integrity of communications and with the DEF-AffectAgent to monitor and manage operator susceptibility to psychological fatigue. In cases of emotional destabilization, hormonal feedback loops can be triggered to adjust the system's tone or decision-making pathways.

5.13 DEF-HumanProfilingAgent : Intent Recognition and Behavioral Screening

The DEF-HumanProfilingAgent analyzes biometric, behavioral, and linguistic cues from individuals—such as captured targets, civilians, or personnel—to assess intent and threat potential. It detects micro-expressions, stress signatures, and hesitation, evaluates the coherence between verbal content and emotional cues, and flags possible deception or abnormal behavioral patterns. This agent is essential for decision support in contexts such as interrogation, checkpoints, or negotiations. Its profiling thresholds and memory associations can be modulated by hormonal inputs derived from past interactions.

5.14 DEF-AffectAgent : Emotional Resonance and Bias Control

This agent models emotional cues within decision-making chains by detecting stress signals from memory traces or user interactions, modulating agent behavior to simulate or suppress cognitive bias, and integrating emotional intensity into the encoding of memory traces. It acts as a bridge between rational strategic planning and affect-driven urgency modulation.

5.15 DEF-MedicalSupportAgent : Triage and Tactical Health Management

This agent supports real-time health assessment, triage, and medical resource allocation in the field. It prioritizes injured personnel based on severity and operational context, matches available resources—such as medical kits, personnel, and transport—with immediate needs, and issues dynamic treatment plans or evacuation suggestions. It interfaces with the DEF-LogisticsAgent to synchronize medical stock levels with operational tempo and with the MemoryAgent to record patient-specific protocols and past incidents. Emotional salience, such as the memory of previous losses, can influence its prioritization through hormonal signaling.

5.16 DEF-GeoPoliticalAgent : Doctrine-Aware Geostrategic Analysis

This agent embeds knowledge of international relations, treaties, rules of engagement, and geopolitical risks. It evaluates tactical options in light of geopolitical constraints, flags escalation risks based on regional history or existing alliances, and proposes actions that are both legally compliant and diplomatically sustainable. It interacts with the DEF-KnowledgeBaseAgent for legal validation and with the DEF-StrategyAgent to assess the impact of various scenarios. During high-tension missions, it can inhibit certain agents or recommend softened behaviors through hormonal dampening mechanisms.

5.17 DEF-FailureDiagnosisAgent : Fault Detection and Repair

This agent diagnoses internal malfunctions in both hardware and software subsystems and proposes appropriate corrective measures. It monitors the health of physical assets such as sensors and vehicles, as well as software agents, distinguishes between transient glitches and structural faults, and issues repair commands or reroutes functionalities to redundant agents when necessary. When the DEF-RedundancyAgent is activated, the DEF-FailureDiagnosisAgent plays a critical role in maintaining operational continuity, particularly in austere or contested environments.

5.18 DEF-MaintenanceFleetAgent : Predictive Maintenance and Fleet Health Monitoring

This agent oversees the technical condition of vehicular, aerial, and robotic assets, enabling real-time predictive maintenance. It monitors performance degradation trends across entire fleets, distinguishes between routine wear and critical faults, and prioritizes maintenance interventions based on the operational importance of each asset. It collaborates with the DEF-FailureDiagnosisAgent for detailed diagnostics and with the DEF-LogisticsAgent for the allocation of spare parts. Hormonal urgency signals—such as overheating or recurring malfunction patterns—can accelerate maintenance operations or trigger the immediate withdrawal of compromised assets.

5.19 DEF-NRBCDefenseAgent : Nuclear, Radiological, Biological and Chemical Threat Response

This agent detects and manages NRBC (nuclear, radiological, biological, and chemical) hazards in contested environments by integrating data from field sensors, personnel vitals, and environmental changes. Its capabilities include real-time detection and classification of NRBC agents, automated generation of decontamination plans, and dynamic zone lockdown with personnel rerouting under threat. It interfaces with the DEF-EnvironmentAgent for spatial hazard modeling and with the DEF-MedicalSupportAgent for triage coordination and antidote distribution. In mass-casualty events, hormonal alerts—such as panic-response signals—modulate its activation and prioritize critical interventions.

5.20 DEF-CommandChainAgent : Hierarchical Control and Inter-Agent Governance

This agent manages the simulated command hierarchy within the S-AI-DEF agent ecosystem, ensuring proper delegation of authority and synchronization of macro-level strategies. It simulates command tiers and chain-of-command logic, resolves conflicts between agents with overlapping jurisdictions, and escalates unresolved dilemmas to the MetaAgent or a human operator. This agent is particularly valuable in joint operations involving human agents or allied AI systems. Hormonal feedback mechanisms can reflect levels of urgency, authority conflicts, or information overload, prompting dynamic reconfiguration of control priorities.

5.21 DEF-MoralDecisionAgent : Ethical Resolution and Dilemma Management

This agent handles ethical edge-cases and moral conflicts during high-risk operations. It evaluates dilemmas through symbolic rules, learned profiles, and mission context. It:

- Detects potential violations of international law or ethical codes,
- Simulates consequences of ethically ambiguous decisions,
- Recommends ethically compliant alternatives or de-escalation paths.

It operates in tandem with the DEF-RulesOfEngagementAgent and DEF-KnowledgeBaseAgent, and can trigger hormonal damping signals to slow down risky decisions or inhibit agent activation in ethically charged contexts.

5.22 Mini-Neural Structures for Micro-Specialization

To enhance responsiveness and adaptability in high-stakes environments, S-AI-DEF introduces the concept of *mini-neural structures* embedded within certain specialized agents. These are lightweight, domain-specific submodules that simulate localized neural plasticity and enable real-time pattern recognition or behavioral adaptation without full-scale deep learning overhead. Unlike conventional deep models, mini-neural structures are shallow, interpretable, and designed to operate under stringent constraints. Their purpose is not to generalize globally, but to optimize decision-making in very specific contexts, such as localized signal patterns, tactical formations, or enemy behavior cues.

5.23 Clarification on Internal vs. External Security Responsibilities

To avoid any confusion between overlapping security functionalities, S-AI-DEF explicitly separates internal governance from external cyber protection. The SecurityAgent is a system-level component dedicated to the internal integrity, compliance, and secure orchestration of agents. It continuously monitors authentication, access rights, behavioral deviations, and regulatory alignment across all system modules. In contrast, the CyberDefenseAgent is a domain-specific agent designed for external threat detection and mitigation. It operates at the periphery of the system, scanning for intrusions, malware, and hostile cyber actions targeting tactical networks or connected field devices. These two agents thus operate at different levels, respond to distinct threat vectors, and play complementary roles in ensuring mission resilience both internally and externally.

5.24 Comparative Analysis of DEF-Specialized Agents

S-AI-DEF relies on the parsimonious coordination of 21 domain-specific agents, each designed for a distinct functional role within defense environments. These agents are contextually activated based on mission objectives, environmental dynamics, cognitive urgency, and hormonal signals. This comparative analysis highlights three key structuring axes that differentiate and organize these DEF-agents.

Functional Specialization and Modularity

Each DEF-agent fulfills a dedicated, non-overlapping mission-critical function, ensuring high modularity and controllability. Examples include :

- **DEF-ReconAgent**: processes sensor and imagery data for battlefield awareness.
- **DEF-ThreatAssessmentAgent**: evaluates threats using risk logic and contextual cues.
- **DEF-CyberDefenseAgent**: monitors and mitigates external digital threats.
- **DEF-PsyOpsAgent**: analyzes influence operations and disinformation patterns.
- **DEF-RulesOfEngagementAgent**: validates ethical and legal compliance of decisions.

This strict functional segregation avoids redundancy, facilitates symbolic orchestration, and enables scalable integration of additional agents.

Hormonal Modulation and Contextual Reactivity

Several agents are hormonally sensitive and adapt their activation thresholds or behavior in response to internal signals emitted by:

- The HormonalEngine (stress, urgency, alert),
- The MemoryAgent (past mission traces, patterns),
- The AffectAgent (emotional salience, cognitive fatigue).

Examples of hormonally influenced behavior include:

- DEF-StrategyAgent: prioritizes tactics based on mission urgency.
- DEF-MedicalSupportAgent: adapts triage priorities to emotional or historical intensity.
- DEF-CyberAgent and DEF-CyberDefenseAgent: amplify scanning during hormonal alert phases.
- DEF-NavigationAgent: accelerates route updates under hormonal urgency signals.

These dynamic modulations allow for frugal yet responsive agent orchestration, adapting reasoning intensity to operational context.

Temporal Dynamics and Predictive Scope

The DEF-agents can be grouped based on their temporal role and predictive behavior:

- Reactive agents:
  e.g., DEF-CommsAgent, DEF-LogisticsAgent, DEF-FailureDiagnosisAgent — respond instantly to real-time inputs.
- Predictive agents:
  e.g., DEF-AdversaryModelingAgent, DEF-GeoPoliticalAgent, DEF-StrategyAgent — simulate future states or outcomes.
- Contextual/affective agents:
  e.g., DEF-AffectAgent, DEF-EnvironmentAgent, DEF-HumanProfilingAgent — adjust behavior based on emotion, terrain, or human interactions.
- Information agents:
  e.g., DEF-ScientificWatchAgent, DEF-MediaMonitoringAgent, DEF-TranslationAgent — gather or reframe external data for other agents.

This typology supports asynchronous and selective activation, enhancing resilience, saving computational resources, and ensuring mission continuity even under partial system degradation.

6. Memory Architecture in S-AI-DEF

Unlike traditional AI systems that rely on static storage or short-lived buffers, S-AI-DEF introduces a biologically inspired and tactically optimized memory architecture. It combines symbolic traceability**,** hormonal modulation**, and** contextual reinforcement**,** ensuring that operational memory becomes a strategic asset in defense and critical systems.

6.1 Triadic Memory Model : A Distributed Agent Architecture

S-AI-DEF adopts a triadic agent-based memory structure composed of three cognitively distinct and functionally autonomous agents :

- DEF-ContextMemoryAgent: a dynamic, short-term buffer that captures tactical events, mission inputs, and local agent exchanges in real time.
- DEF-MemoryAgent: a long-term memory manager responsible for storing symbolic knowledge, past mission traces, procedural rules, and learned doctrines.
- DEF-MemoryGlandAgent: an affective memory layer that encodes emotional salience and urgency, and emits hormonal signals linked to emotionally charged or mission-critical memories.

Each of these memory agents operates independently yet collaboratively, and is orchestrated adaptively by the DEF-MetaAgent based on mission tempo, agent feedback, and internal hormonal signals.

6.2 Strategic Activation and Hormonal Triggers

Memory traces are not passively stored ; instead, they are encoded symbolically with contextual tags such as location, threat level, or emotional tone. These traces can be reinforced or suppressed based on hormonal signals like alertness, stress, or fatigue, and are proactively queried by specialized agents in situations of ambiguity, uncertainty, or danger. For instance, if a current scenario resembles a past tactical failure, the DEF-MemoryGlandAgent may emit a stress hormone that alters agent activation priorities, suppresses lower-priority agents, or reactivates defensive strategies stored in the DEF-MemoryAgent.

6.3 Operational Roles and Agent Collaboration

Memory plays a central and active role in S-AI-DEF's intelligent orchestration pipeline. It enables :

- Agent coordination, via shared symbolic and contextual references,
- Rule activation, when matching memory patterns or past scenarios are retrieved,
- Safety checks, by alerting agents to previously identified operational risks.

Key collaborative interactions include :

- The DEF-StrategyAgent querying the DEF-MemoryAgent for past tactics and decision patterns,
- The DEF-KnowledgeBaseAgent validating memory consistency with doctrine and mission rules,
- The DEF-HormonalEngine using affective tags from DEF-MemoryGlandAgent to modulate memory trace strength and relevance.

6.4 Cognitive Properties of the Memory Architecture

The S-AI-DEF memory system exhibits several biologically inspired cognitive features :

- Traceability : Memory traces are structured symbolically and interpretable by both system agents and human operators.
- Frugality : Only emotionally salient or operationally relevant traces are retained and reinforced long term.
- Plasticity : Memory traces, rule associations, and affective weights evolve dynamically through feedback loops and learning mechanisms.

Together, these properties enable the system to maintain a self-regulating, context-aware, and cognitively efficient memory layer, aligned with the needs of adaptive defense intelligence.

6.5 Recap Analysis : Synergy Between Memory, Agents, and Hormones

S-AI-DEF's memory system forms a triadic synergy with other core components of the architecture :

1. Memory as a Source of Strategy and Signal Generation

- The DEF-ContextMemoryAgent acts as a real-time perceptual buffer for volatile tactical data.
- The DEF-MemoryAgent supplies symbolic knowledge, past mission history, and stored decision rules to specialized agents.
- The DEF-MemoryGlandAgent encodes urgency or emotional markers and converts critical memory activations into hormonal signals.

2. Agents as Memory Consumers and Feedback Emitters

- Agents such as DEF-StrategyAgent, DEF-ThreatAssessmentAgent, and DEF-LogisticsAgent actively query memory to inform decisions.
- Affective agents like DEF-AffectAgent influence memory trace reinforcement or decay based on psychological stress, emotional salience, or cognitive load.
- All agents may generate new memory engrams, thus contributing to continuous episodic learning.

3. Hormones as Dynamic Interfaces Between Memory and Action

- Hormonal signals generated by the DEF-HormonalEngine modulate memory salience, retrieval probability, and trace decay.
- For example, an emotionally charged event detected by the DEF-MemoryGlandAgent may trigger a burst of alertness hormone that activates dormant agents or suppresses cognitive noise.
- This asynchronous and targeted modulation enhances resilience and reactivity under uncertain or high-risk defense conditions.

7. Hormonal Modulation in S-AI-DEF

Inspired by biological endocrine systems, S-AI-DEF integrates an artificial hormonal signaling mechanism that regulates agent activation, memory prioritization, and system-level decision-making. This layer operates asynchronously and contextually, enabling adaptive orchestration under uncertainty, stress, and tactical urgency.

7.1 Architecture of the DEF-HormonalEngine

The DEF-HormonalEngine is responsible for :

- Managing hormone production, propagation, and decay,
- Receiving stimuli from internal or external events (e.g., memory activation, threat detection),
- Broadcasting hormonal signals to influence agent behavior and memory weighting.

It is connected to multiple glands, including :

- DEF-MemoryGland : generates stress, urgency, or confidence signals based on memory trace patterns,
- DEF-StrategyGland : modulates the strategic response scope based on mission intensity,
- DEF-AdaptationGland : triggers metabolic changes in the system's activation thresholds or learning rate.

7.2 Hormonal Signal Lifecycle

Hormonal signals follow a well-defined lifecycle :

1. Stimulation: A triggering event (e.g., a threat spike, ambiguous input, or memory recall) activates a DEF-gland.
2. Emission: A hormone is generated with specific properties: type, intensity, half-life.
3. Propagation: The hormone spreads through the system context, accessible by active agents.
4. Reception: Each agent (e.g., DEF-ThreatAssessmentAgent, DEF-MemoryAgent) can respond if their receptor profile matches the hormone.
5. Decay: The hormone fades over time, unless reinforced.

This process enables non-linear, emergent behaviors, such as anticipatory activation, alertness propagation, or emotional regulation.

7.3 Context-Aware Hormonal Scenarios

Several critical scenarios illustrate how hormonal modulation enhances decision-making:

- Mission Creep Alert : An extended engagement triggers fatigue signals via the DEF-MemoryGland, causing DEF-LogisticsAgent to request backup or reallocation.
- Ambiguity Resolution : A high-uncertainty signal leads the DEF-DecompositionAgent to decompose the task further and alert DEF-StrategyAgent.

- Strategic Pivoting : A surge in threat hormones from DEF-ThreatAssessmentAgent can cause the DEF-MetaAgent to revise the active agent set or prioritize risk avoidance.

7.4 Benefits of Hormonal Modulation in Critical Systems

The inclusion of hormonal control yields several key benefits. It ensures frugality by activating only the relevant agents while keeping others dormant, enhances resilience through rapid signal propagation that compensates for failures or disruptions, and improves reactivity by enabling system responses that are emergent and adaptive rather than strictly linear. Additionally, it offers transparency, as hormonal states are symbolically represented and can be inspected and interpreted by human operators. Together, these features transform S-AI-DEF into a self-regulating, context-sensitive AI system capable of operating effectively under pressure and uncertainty.

7.5 Hormonal Typology Adapted to Defense and Critical Contexts

In military and critical environments, the system's ability to dynamically modulate behavior, priority levels, and response thresholds is essential for ensuring robustness, computational frugality, and fast decision-making. Inspired by biological endocrine systems, the S-AI-DEF architecture introduces a structured set of artificial glands (DEF-Glands) and digital hormonal molecules (DEF-Hormones) that enable flexible, distributed, and explainable regulation of cognitive and operational activity. The following table 2 Typology of Glands and Hormones in S-AI-DEF provides a functional typology of the main glands and hormones integrated into S-AI-DEF, specifying their function, typical use cases, and biological analogues :

Component	Type	Core Function	Usage Scenario	Biological Analogy
MemoryGland	Local Gland	Emits emotional resonance hormones based on memory	When affective or strategic engram is retrieved	Amygdala / Hippocampus
StrategyGland	Central Gland	Releases planning, hesitation, or anticipation signals	During dilemmas or conflicting goals	Hypothalamus
AdaptationGland	Local Gland	Releases urgency, inhibition, or reconfiguration signals	Under overload, threat, or reorientation needs	Adrenal Gland
Stressin	Hormone	Increases vigilance, caution, and resource conservation	Triggered by anomalies or critical states	Cortisol
Anticipin	Hormone	Enhances proactive activation and anticipation	In low-signal, ambiguous, or underexplored contexts	Adrenaline / Dopamine
Confidin	Hormone	Lowers perceived ambiguity, reinforces trust in consensus	When agents converge on a shared conclusion	Oxytocin
Inhibin	Hormone	Suppresses irrelevant or contradictory agents and responses	Used to eliminate noise and refocus attention	GABA
Persiston	Hormone	Reinforces sustained effort in difficult tasks	Promotes perseverance under delayed success	Noradrenaline
Prioritin	Hormone	Dynamically reshuffles agent activation priorities	Reacts to evolving mission goals or criticality shifts	Melatonin (symbolic)

Component	Type	Core Function	Usage Scenario	Biological Analogy
Urgentin	Hormone	Triggers reflexive and real-time responses	Upon detecting attacks, system failures, or network disconnections	Global hormonal reflex

This typology serves as a modular and extensible base, adaptable to evolving mission scenarios. It allows the system to :

- Finely modulate responsiveness without computational overload ;
- Broadcast signals both locally and globally based on context ;
- Ensure emotional and strategic coherence between memory, agents, and mission objectives.

Eventually, this typology could be dynamically extended through adaptive learning mechanisms, making hormonal signaling customizable per mission, per operator profile, or per tactical environment.

8. Result Aggregation and Feedback Loops in S-AI-DEF

In complex, mission-critical environments such as defense systems, decisions cannot rely solely on isolated outputs. The architecture must consolidate partial results, resolve conflicts, and maintain an adaptive feedback loop. S-AI-DEF addresses this through a specialized Result Aggregator combined with multi-agent feedback dynamics.

8.1 Aggregator Role and Operation

The DEF-ResultAggregator is a core system component responsible for collecting outputs from all active DEF-Agents, comparing and weighting conflicting or overlapping results, and producing a coherent, prioritized output for the decision-making layer or the human operator. It supports multiple aggregation modes, including symbolic aggregation by merging rules, scenarios, or semantic conclusions ; numerical aggregation by synthesizing metrics, scores, and probabilities; and hierarchical aggregation by prioritizing agents based on mission tier or hormonal intensity.

8.2 Adaptive Weighting Based on Hormonal Context

Unlike fixed rule-based systems, the DEF-Aggregator dynamically adjusts the weight of each agent's output based on :

- Hormonal signals: If DEF-Stressin is active, outputs from DEF-ThreatAssessmentAgent gain higher priority.
- Historical accuracy: Memory traces track previous agent performance under similar missions.
- Confidence metrics: Each DEF-Agent provides an internal certainty score that contributes to aggregation weighting.

8.3 Feedback Loops with the DEF-MetaAgent and Memory

After aggregating the results, the system engages in a two-way feedback process:

1. Forward propagation: The aggregated result is sent to the DEF-MetaAgent, the operator, or the actuation layer (e.g., drone swarm controller).
2. Backward reflection:
    - If successful, memory engrams are reinforced via the DEF-MemoryAgent.
    - If failed or ambiguous, hormonal modulation (e.g., DEF-Stressin or DEF-Anticipin) is triggered, and alternative agents may be activated.

This feedback loop enables the system to evolve, self-correct, and adapt to shifting operational dynamics.

8.4 Integration with Human Command Structures

In defense systems, decision autonomy must be traceable. The aggregated results are :

- Structured for human interpretability (via DEF-RAM module),
- Logged and annotated with causal paths, hormone levels, and activated agents,
- Validated via optional human-in-the-loop interfaces for high-stakes actions.

This ensures trust, auditability, and explainability, which are indispensable in military and critical settings. The diversity of aggregation strategies adopted in S-AI-DEF is summarized in Table 3, typology of aggregation mechanisms in S-AI-DEF, which classifies the main modes of result integration (symbolic, numerical, hierarchical, contextual, and hybrid), along with their functions, output examples, and the agents involved in each case.

Aggregation Type	**Description**	**Example Outputs**	**Involved Agents**
Symbolic Aggregation	Merging logical rules, diagnostics, or agent-level recommendations	"Probable threat detected," "Primary route validated"	DEF-ThreatAssessmentAgent, DEF-PlanningAgent
Numerical Aggregation	Averaging or weighting scores, confidence levels, or statistical evaluations	Overall threat score: 0.86; Strategy confidence: 73%	DEF-RiskAgent, DEF-PredictionAgent
Hierarchical Aggregation	Prioritizing results based on agent criticality or mission level	DEF-StrategyAgent favored during high DEF-Stressin levels	All DEF-Agents (dynamically weighted)
Contextual Aggregation	Integrating hormonal signals and mission context	One result overrides others due to hormonal urgency	DEF-MetaAgent, DEF-HormonalEngine
Hybrid Aggregation	Combined symbolic + numeric + contextual decision arbitration	Balancing evacuation paths vs. attack plans	DEF-Aggregator, DEF-MetaAgent

9 Conclusion and Future Directions

9.1 Summary of Contributions

This paper has presented the S-AI-DEF architecture as a bio-inspired, modular, and parsimonious AI system tailored for defense and mission-critical environments. Building on the Sparse Artificial Intelligence paradigm, it integrates symbolic reasoning, agent-based modularity, and hormonal signaling to address the unique challenges of adversarial, embedded, and strategic scenarios.

The key scientific and operational contributions of the system are summarized in Table 6, which highlights their originality, relevance, and applicability across different military contexts.

9.2 Future Research Directions

Several research avenues emerge from this work :

- Integration with real-time tactical simulators to validate agent coordination and latency performance in physical environments.
- Formal verification methods for agent behavior under stress and hormonal fluctuations.
- Hybrid neuro-symbolic learning to allow agents to evolve rules based on experience while preserving explainability.
- Deployment on low-power, secure hardware for field-ready military-grade AI.
- Ethical governance frameworks for human-supervised orchestration and fail-safe overrides.

Ultimately, this architecture offers a blueprint for resilient AI ecosystems where intelligence is not only powerful—but sparse, adaptive, and responsible.

Recent developments in military technologies also suggest an increasing integration of advanced artificial intelligence systems into operational decision cycles. AI-based platforms are progressively used to support intelligence analysis, multi-source data synthesis, and strategic planning in complex operational environments. While these systems demonstrate significant potential for accelerating information processing and situational awareness, they also highlight the limitations of centralized and monolithic AI architectures in mission-critical contexts. In contrast, the S-AI-DEF framework illustrates how sparse, modular, and hormonally orchestrated intelligence can provide a more controllable, resilient, and explainable alternative for future defense-oriented AI systems operating under uncertainty and resource constraints.

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Author

Said Slaoui is a professor at Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco. He graduated in Computer Science from University Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris VI (in collaboration with IBM France), 1986. He has over 40 years of experience in the fields of AI and Big Data, with research focused on modular architectures, symbolic reasoning, and computational frugality. His recent work introduces the Sparse Artificial Intelligence (S-AI) framework, which integrates bio-inspired signaling and agent-based orchestration. He has published numerous scientific papers in international journals and conferences, and actively contributes to the development of sustainable and explainable AI systems.